

With D. Grobner's Compliments.

TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS
OF THE
Eng
Sculcoates Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure I present to you my report for the year ending December 31st, 1897, being satisfied that, in every direction, the past year has been distinctly marked by an advance of Sanitation in the district.

The completion of the West District Drainage is a matter for congratulation, being the most important work a Council could be called upon to undertake. It was a work most urgently demanded, and it will, I trust, from a sanitary point of view, be equal for many years to the extended requirements.

Ventilation of the sewers by means of air-shafts is engaging the attention of a Special Drainage Committee, with the Engineer and myself, the open gratings, required by the Local Government Board, being unequal to that purpose in villages where the flow of sewage is usually neither rapid nor large in volume. To the many who complain of the foul smells coming from the open gratings, the delay in fixing ventilating shafts appears tedious, but there are great difficulties in the way of prompt action.

There have been 242 births (111 females and 131 males), giving a birth rate of 24.78 in the thousand of population.

There have been 111 deaths from all disease causes, giving a death rate of 11·36 in the thousand; and, in addition, there have been 3 deaths due to accident.

Of these 111 deaths, 19 were children under a year, giving an infant mortality of 78·51 per thousand births. This is an improvement on last year, when this death rate was 122·42 per thousand births. This mortality will, I trust, go on decreasing, as much is due to want of attention and care in feeding. The great decrease, the past year, is in a measure due to the mild seasons. Forty-seven deaths were persons over 65. Some attained a great age. In the Hessle District 18 people averaged over 80 years, one attained 97 and one 99 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	3
Consumption	...	...	...	...	...	10
Bronchitis and pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	15
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	12
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other causes (mostly infantile or old age)	...	...	...	...	...	63
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3

There have been 52 notifications of infectious disease, mostly of a mild form, viz. :—

Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	...	31
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	15
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	2

There has been much influenza throughout the year, mostly of a mild form, affecting the nervous system.

I regret the proposal to acquire a right to a certain number of beds in the Hull Sanatorium, on conditions to be determined, did not meet with the approval of the Hull

Council. Cases of infectious disease occurring in this district will, however, be admitted on payment, as heretofore. Having regard to the character and needs of the district, I have not felt justified in advising the Council to incur the expense of a special Isolation Hospital, but the opening of the Cottage Homes will necessitate some such provision.

During the year I have paid frequent visits to all parts of the district to investigate the cause of disease, to endeavour to correct defects in domestic sanitation, and often to see that my instructions were properly carried out. Though in this respect I am often doing the work proper to an Inspector of Nuisances, I feel there is an advantage in being thus frequently brought in touch with distant parts of the district. I must, however, ask you to consider the necessity of an addition to the staff through the increasing duties of an inspector. One is required specially competent to overlook new buildings and detect faulty sewage arrangements.

Unsanitary privies are a constant annoyance, even when originally properly constructed ; time is a sore decayer, and one often finds the floor and immediate area saturated with filth, giving off the most disgusting odour. I recommend the universal introduction of metal boxes under the seat, which can be readily emptied and disinfected. At the schools, urinals provide boys with accommodation which does not exist for girls and infants ; to remedy this defect, I recommend, where possible, the introduction of water closets of a special type, which can be flushed out daily by an attendant.

The domestic water supply of the district has received much attention. In parts this is mainly obtained from sype or surface wells, liable to surface pollution ; some of these are, indeed, little better than cesspools. Hessle, Anlaby, Kirkella, and Willerby are mostly supplied from Springhead, and where a private supply exists, under ordinary circum-

stances, it is good, being from the water-bearing rock through a bore. Westella is supplied with excellent water from a deep well in the centre of the village. Swanland is supplied with pure water from its own waterworks, and Ferriby will soon enjoy the same privilege. Melton and Welton will, no doubt, before long follow suit, for the domestic supply is not all that could be desired in the latter village.

Preston is, however, far the worst in this respect, though Sutton requires some attention. During the past year I have constantly, in my monthly report, alluded to the domestic water supply of Preston. On March the 14th a case of Diphtheria was reported, which died the following day. The water supply was considered above suspicion, as it was from a new bore, and I was informed it had been analysed and found very pure. Being satisfied with this statement, at the time I failed to find the cause of infection. On March 25th, a second case was reported. Here I found the domestic supply very foul, but as it was stated that the water for drinking was obtained from a neighbour's pump, from which the water was "beautiful," I had the latter analysed by Mr. Baynes, who pronounced it "filthy and quite unfit for domestic purposes." These wells were cleaned out and new drains laid, but from a recent analysis (February 2nd) Mr. Baynes says this water is "filthily polluted and absolutely unfit for drinking or domestic purposes." In October there was a case of Typhoid and two cases of Diphtheria, and in December there was another case of Diphtheria reported, all I believe to be due to impure water. These cases were, with one exception, mild in character, and cropping up from time to time may not be very alarming, but when considered in conjunction with Mr. Baynes' analysis, I recognise the possibility of an impending outbreak of disease which it is our plain duty to endeavour to avert. I am preparing a full report on the Preston water supply and suggestions for

procedure, which I will present at our next meeting (on February 15th). I am of opinion that an abundance of pure water will be found north-west of Preston, coming down from the wolds, traversing the intervening space in a seam of sandy gravel, which forms a good filter bed.

Since writing the above, the special report on Preston has been presented to the Council, who decided to lose no time in endeavouring to supply Preston with pure water.

Complaints are frequently made to me of the continued nuisance arising from the drip of liquid filth from the Hull nightsoil carts polluting our roads. The nuisance is a very real and intolerable one to those who live on the roads along which the carts travel with their disgusting freight. During the three years I have held office I have frequently brought the complaints before the Council, and I have mentioned them in my annual reports. I have often complained to the Hull authorities, who have courteously replied regretting the nuisance, which they were most anxious to abate, and to this end they were in search of a suitable water-tight cart. In their last reply I was informed that such a cart had at last been discovered. Two or three such carts have been seen, but the old carts still continue to leave their filthy trail.

The condition of two private streets, one at Sutton and the other at Hessle (Florence Avenue), is very bad, especially the latter.

The property at Melton, which was reported to the Council, has been repaired and put into habitable condition for tenants with small families. The same applies to houses in Chapel Yard and Union Place, Hessle. The proper housing of the poor is to me a difficult problem. The existence of cesspools on the chalk formation is greatly to be condemned, being a most frequent cause of water pollution. The condition of Ferriby, resulting in the necessity for the new works, was undoubtedly due to this

cause. The existing law gives us little or no power over these cesspools, which, I am satisfied, are a menace to the water supply of the whole district, and I wish a Bill could be introduced in Parliament giving all interested Authorities power to prevent pollution of the underground streams from which their supplies of water are derived, making it penal for anyone to do certain things "specially scheduled" likely to cause such pollution.

This question concerns Hull as much as ourselves, and it is now five or six years since I met, by request, a joint Committee (Waterworks and Sanitary) in reference to some letters of mine in the *Eastern Morning News*, pointing out this danger. This danger was recognised, some resolution passed, but nothing further has been done up to the present. The Hull Council are, however, now considering the matter, and I trust that something may result.

The annexed tables give at a glance the Population, Births, Cause of Death, and Infectious Sickness in the district during the past year.

Thanking you, gentlemen, for your kind consideration,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

JAMES MOLINEUX, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Hessle, February 3rd, 1898.

(A)—TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Seuloates Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.)	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under Five years of age.											
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.		65 and upwards.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	All other Diseases	Total.
Hessle	61	14	5	1	6	12	23	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	...	2	3	...	...	5	...	...	1	9	19
Ferriby	16	1	2	1	1	5	6	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	3	42
Preston	17	1	5	2	...	3	6	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	1	...	...	...	4	1	...	1	...	6	13
Sutton.....	14	2	...	1	...	2	9	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	11
Willerby.....	3	1	...	...	...	1	1	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	6
Total.....	111	19	12	5	7	23	45	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	1	2	3	...	...	6	...	...	3	18	31
									...	...	...	...	10	9	12	...	...	46	80
									1	2	3	...	10	15	12	3	64	111	

(B)—TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Sculcoates Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

New Cases of Sickness in each locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Fever.		Erysipelas.	Total.
	(Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.					Typhus.	Puerperal.		
Hessle.....	4065	4785	119	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	4 14	1 5	... 3	... ...	... 2	5 24
Ferriby	1782	1809	43	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	2 6	1 ...	... 4	... ...	... ...	3 10
Preston	948	966	25	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	1 ...	1 5	... 1	... ...	... ...	2 6
Sutton.....	1243	1363	34	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...
Willerby.....	719	841	21	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	... ...	... ...	... 1	... ...	... ...	... 1
Total	8757	9764	242	{ Under 5 5 upwds.	7 20	3 10	... 9	... ...	... 2	10 41
					27	13	9	...	2	51

"Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District since 1889. The Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District is the Hull Sanatorium, where patients are admitted on payment by the Sculcoates Rural Authority.